

REMARKS

At the outset the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review of the patent application identified above.

Applicants note that the only rejection currently pending is an obviousness-type double patenting rejection of claims 2-5, 7-15, and 17-23 over co-owned U.S. Patent No. 6,292,296. Applicants note that a Terminal Disclaimer over this patent was filed on behalf of the Applicants on July 24, 2002. A copy of the postcard evidencing the filing is included herewith.

In order to expedite allowance of this application, Applicants herewith again file a Terminal Disclaimer to obviate the pending rejection.

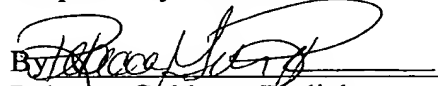
If the Examiner deems that a telephone conversation would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (202) 496-7500.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: October 22, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

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